

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. 4652

### 1. Name

Historic 1517-1525 North Dallas Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1517-1525 North Dallas Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check One

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check One

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of five two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in 1889-90 by Henry L. Brack, a small-scale builder of working class housing in East Baltimore. Most of the houses retain their original painted brick facades, which were originally striped, and evidence remains that their basements were originally painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses.

The houses are two stories in height, 12" wide and occupy lots 65' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted and striped. The basement area was painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding, decorated with a cut-work band, supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with wooden balls and a leafy pattern, connected by a lower molding strip, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze area, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a pattern of crosses and double lines, created with a jig saw. The same notched band of cut-work decoration used on the crown molding borders the ventilator panel and is also applied to the lower molding strip. Additional small ventilator panels, with a leafy jig-sawn design, punctuate the brickwork section of the frieze.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and scroll-sawn tympanums. Several of the original 2/2 sash survive. The sills are wood. The single light doorway transom is also decorated with a cut-work band. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash, with a plain flat wood lintel. Each house was originally reached by three wooden steps.

The houses were demolished in the spring of 1997.

### 3. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	X	community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	X architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	X social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/>	engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/>	invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other; specify

**Specific dates** 1889-90

**Builder/Architect** Henry L. Brack

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built Henry L. Brack, a fairly modest Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. In this particular case, Brack built two-story, three-bay wide (13') on the south side of Federal St. and 12' wide houses on Dallas St.

Brack sold one of the houses (13' wide) for \$650 and the remaining four back to the developers of the east half of the block, Frederick Adam and Jesse Bowen, who built the three-story, three-bay wide houses on the west side of Bond St.

In like manner another developer owned the north-western quarter of the block, where Alexander Sanner built the 15'5"-wide three-story houses on Caroline St. in 1887 and the builder George A. Cook put up 14' and 15'-wide two story houses on Federal St. and 12'-wide houses on the west side of Dallas St. in 1889-90, most of which he sold to German-American owner-occupants for \$550. Cook also owned the 7 lots on the south end of the west side of Dallas St. but sold them unimproved. In 1891 Henry Westphal, another builder active in the area, built 12'4" wide late Italianate style houses here which also sold to German and Bohemian owner-occupants, for \$500.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date Jan 2000

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



1517-1525 N DALLAS ST  
RACED, ID

B-4652

AVE

1906 City Atlas

ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

TUNNEL

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ENTRANCE  
TO TUNNEL  
UNION P.R.  
P.R.R.

CHURCH  
OF THE  
REDEEMER

N. BETHEL

OLIVER PL.

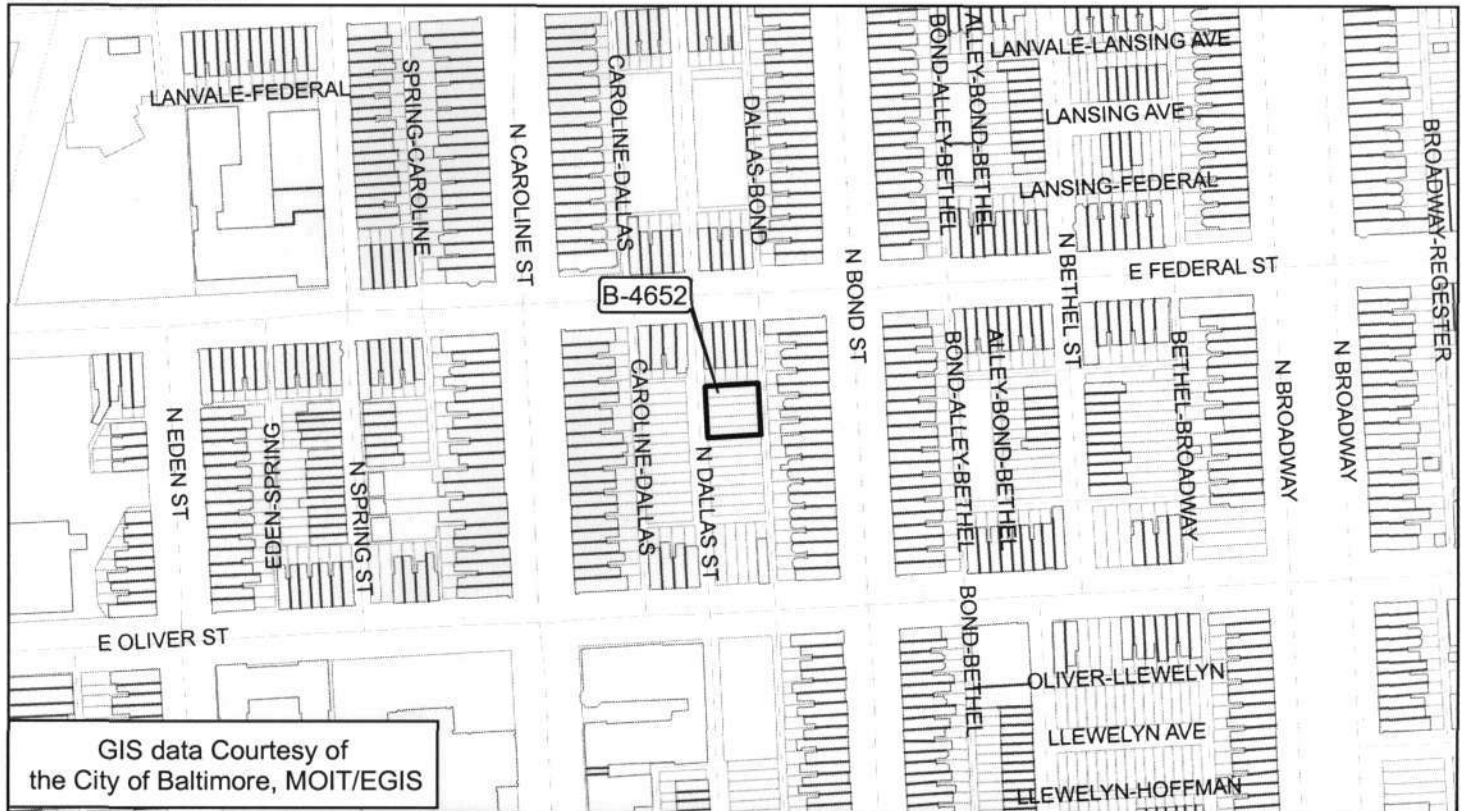
N. BETHEL

HALESLEY PL.

NORTH

# Demolished

B-4652  
1517-1525 N. Dallas Street  
Block 1126  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

